




Office of the City Engineer
609 West Navajo Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906
Phone: 765.775.5130
Fax: 765.775.5249

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Works Members

FROM: David M. Buck, PE 
Public Works Director

CC: Judy Rhodes, Clerk-Treasurer
Ben Anderson, Engineering Assistant
File

DATE: April 20, 2012

SUBJECT: 2012 CDBG SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

1) General:

This project consists of installation of new concrete sidewalks, ramps and curbs along Connolly and DeHart Streets as well as a new section of sidewalk on Yeager Road in front of the Country Villa Apartments.

2) Bids Received:

Five bids were received Tuesday, April 3, 2012 and read out loud at the West Lafayette Board of Public Works & Safety meeting. Bid results were as follows:

1. Artistic Construction Company, Inc.	\$295,355.00
2. Fairfield Contractors, Inc.	\$329,936.00
3. Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc.	\$368,833.00
4. Atlas Excavating, Inc.	\$377,624.00
5. Milestone Contractors, LP	\$415,807.00

Engineer's Estimate: \$365,596.47

Note: The Engineer's Estimate was not read aloud.

3) Bid Analysis/Irregularities:

All bids were reviewed for compliance with the construction documents and bidding requirements for this project.

The following list represents a summary of issues and concerns which resulted in our recommendation to reject the bid from Artistic Construction Co., Inc.:

- Failure to complete a similar CDBG project for the City of Lafayette in 2009 due to lack of responsiveness, project management, and quality of construction. See attached letters from the City of Lafayette.
- Failure to provide adequate safety features such as barricades, signs, and fencing to protect the public from works zones, as cited in correspondence from the City of Lafayette. This oversight resulted in an accident and could have caused the serious injury of a pedestrian. This type of error is completely preventable.
- Lack of accuracy on Contractors Bid Form 96.
 - o Under Part II, Section I, Question 2, the question was answered “No Work”, even though reference checks on previous projects indicated that work is still on-going for a project with the City of Indianapolis.
 - o Under Part II, Section I, Question 3, the question was answered “No.”, even though Artistic Construction failed to complete work as described above. This represents a false answer to a question on a sworn affidavit.
- Lack of detail on Contractors Bid Form 96. The general lack of detail in the entire questionnaire does not give us confidence that the contractor has the ability to perform the work to our standards.
- Engineer’s Estimate for this job was \$365,596.47. Three bids were above the engineers estimate while two were below. The apparent low bidder was Artistic Construction Co., Inc. with a bid of \$295,355. This is 23% lower than the Engineer’s Estimate and 21% lower than the average of all the bids received.
- After consulting all of the references that were provided, as well as additional names that were provided upon our request, similar responses were given by all of his references. See attached memo for more detail, but in summary references stated Artistic would require a lot of management and oversight. They expressed concerns that Artistic will have trouble with paperwork, and likely have a hard time staying with the schedule. This feedback is extremely concerning, due to the size of our project, the level of detail and the amount of paperwork required by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Given, the required construction schedule set forth in construction documents and the necessary coordination with other projects and property owners, there is no room for unnecessary delays due to controllable and foreseeable performance related issues.

4) Recommendation:

After completing our review and performing reference checks, it is our determination that the bid from Artistic Construction Company, Inc. is not responsive and not responsible.

Therefore, it is our recommendation to reject the bid from Artistic Construction Co., Inc. and accept the bid from Fairfield Contractors, Inc.